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Stories of Physical Courage.

Mr. Kruger, when a young man, was out hunding hart beeste one day with a rifle which had not been used for a long time. While tinkering with a charge, the gun exploded, tearing his left thumb in shreds. Kruger's companions wanted to give up the hunt and hurry to the nearest surgeon, but the intrepid young Boer refused. Taking out his hunting knife, he placed the lacerated thumb on the stock of the rifle and amputanted it himself. By tying about the stump a piece of rawhide he stopped the flow of blood and, winding around it his red handkerchief, he continued the sport.

Physical robustness and courage have Physical robustness and courage have contributed greatly toward Kruger's success as the leader of a nation. He is absolutely fearless, though not reck-less, and since beylood has known how to act quickly in an emergency. Unlike other famous men, little has been told of his personal history. None but the older generation of Boers know much about it, and they regard it as a sort of divine narrative that is not to be irreverently discussed.

to be irreverently discussed.

All through his life Kruger has had All through his life Kruger has had narrow escapes from death, and his career, if detailed fully, would be thrilling. When only it years old he and a little sister strayed away from the laager down in Cape Colony, where the elder Kruger had settled on emigrating from Germany, and, while playing were saddenly attacked by a leopard. Young Kruger's only weapon was a lack-knife, but, shielding his sister with one arm, he met the victous spring of the leopard with the other, and, after a bloody struggle, succeeded in stabbing it to death.

is hardly warranted, either, in

The Other Side.

The Other Side.

Two stories the Ultianders relate to offset Kruger's plous disposition. One was printed in a Natal paper during my sojourn there, and I did not see it refuted, though I can not vouch for its accuracy. The writer accused Oom Paul of punishing one of his Kaffir boys once by tyins him under his wagon, spreading out legs and arms and making them fast to the axies. The boy was hauled for two days in this position, declared the writer. On another occasion Kruger, when he was trekking, lost an ox and could not find another to take its place, so he hitched up a Kaffir in the team and completed the journey. This chap is still living near Dreikopjes, in the Orange Free State, at a ripe old age, so the experience does not seem to have injured him. In fact, he seems rather proud of the distinction.

When It comes to treatment of the

When it comes to treatment of the blacks, however, Englishmen must remain immured in glass houses. A native will take his chances of good treatment with the Boer every time, though his life is a mighty unpleasant one at the best.

Can Not Serve Two Masters. The first question I put to Oom Paul was why he did not give the Uitlander the right to vote, which the English put forth as their chief cause for com-

one is hardly warranted, either, in speaking slightingly of "Oom" Paul's legs, for they once ran a race that made him famous all through the native tribes in South Africa. A Kaffir chief had become celebrated for his running ability and had never been beaten antil chailenged by a number of young boers, who chose Kruger to represent them. It was decided that the two should run for twelve hours, and the man leading at the end of that time was to have some sort of a prize. At the end of eleven hours the Kaffir dropped in his tracks unconscious, while Kruger kept on to the finish, and according to one of his companions, was so fresh then that he took part in a hunting trip.

was so fresh then that he took part in a hunting trip.

It is the appearance of rough hardinood and unkempt personal attire that first impresses one on meeting "Com" paul, but when the man begins to talk and unfold gradually his mental power, you forget all else but Kruger the diplomat and careful statesman. He gave the writer a short interview recently for publication, with the understanding that the Boer side should be represented from his own view-point, first inquiring if I were a spy from Ceeli Rhodes. On being assured to the contrary by a number of Read members who were present, he followed it up by another customary question, turning on me suddenly and askins "What is your religion"

These two inquiries give an insight the contract of the contract o In the suggestion of the second to the secon

Stephanus Johannes Paulus Kruger, peresident of the Transyaal, is the most interesting public character today to interview. Upon being introduced, you first conclude that he has been greatly overastimated. He seems nothing more than a shrewd old hunter, who, by constant contact with wild animas and savage Kaffira, has developed a wariness that makes him suppledous of everlything and everybody. He does not be a punt of flesh underneath his eyes, as a rule, permits one to see but a narrow gleam, giving one the impression of shiftiness.

His legs are so short and slender that you cannot determine whether or not he induges in neckwear. At home he is usually puffing a short, briar pipe and as he handles !bis you notice that the thumb of his left hand is missing. There is a story in connection with this that his honor will tell you between puffs if he he discoursed in the mood. It gives an idea of the grit which had not been used for a long time. Mine that he whole be likely and briefly the history of the Boers road in the most contact with well animas and surface of the proposal of the history of the Boers and short briar and everybody. He does not be the punt of flesh underneath his eyes, as a rule, permits one to see but a narrow gleam, giving one the impression of shiftiness.

His legs are so short and slender that you cannot determine whether or not he induges in neckwear. At home he is usually puffing a short, briar pipe and as he handles !bis you notice that the chumb of his left hand is missing. There is a story in connection with this that his honor will tell you between puffs if he is in the mood. It gives an idea of the grit which had not been used for a long time. While thinkering with a characteristic of the old Boers. When a way be proceeds to act on it. The work of the provided, town of the permits hat are referred to me graphically interpreted by his pipe and tropping into paralles, the business of the provided the provided to the provided to the permits of the provided to the provided to the provided

her."

"Can the English starve you out?" I then asked Oom Paul.

"If the Lord wills it, yes," he replied.
"If not, the English can build a wall around us as high as Jericho, and we will live and prosper." By cutting off all supplies, the English military expects and hopes to specifly bring the Boers to terms in event of war. Against this Kruger has provided by building storehouses and granaries, where meat and grain are kept in great quantities.

and grain are kept in great quantities.

The great drawback to the Transvaal is that she lacks a sea port. The most convenient one is Delagoa Bay, owned by the Portuguese. As Portugal is mortgaged to Engiand, the latter country controls it. I asked Mr. Kruger if he intended taking this port, but he only replied: "Cursed be he who removes his neighbor's landmarks."

Towering over Johannesburg is a big fort, and working in subterranean passages the Boers, it is said, have undermined the whole town, even to Commissioner street, where the pride of Johannesburg's buildings are located. The Boers can muster 30,900 men, all well armed and good marksmen. They have warehouses full of ammunition, and could undoubtedly, with their present defenses and power to wreck Johannesburg and the mines, afford sufficient menace to Great Britain to make her hesitate.

Mr. Kruger is now 76 years old and

defenses and power to wreck Johannes-burg and the mines, afford sufficient mennoe to Great Britain to make her hesitate.

Mr. Kruger is now 76 years old and his been elected to the presidency four times. His salary is 355,000 a year, with \$1,500 for coffee. This he drinks black, and so hot that the burghers say it will scald the hair off a dog. His life has certainly been a remarkable one, and at different stages he has been a farmer, herdsman, hunter, soldier, clergyman, ambassador, triumvir, financier, head of the army, and is now serving his fourth term as president. In recent years he has bought and sold land a good deal, and is reputed to be very wealthy. His habits and method of living are so simple, however, that he could have saved hearly all his salary in these years, which would give him a tidy fortune.

As he closed our interview, Mr. Kruger went across the hall into a low-ceillinged whitewashed room and leaned for a moment over a placid-faced, motherly little woman, who was seated on a rocking chair, darning stockings. This was Mrs. Kruger, who, though one never hears of her, interested me mightly, because she seemed so utterly oblivious of the turmoils that are besetting her husband's nation. She got Mr. Kruger's hat, escorted him to the door and then went back to her knitting. It was difficult to think of her as the first lady of the lard. Yet she has been Mr. Kruger's hat, escorted him to the door and then went back to her knitting. It was difficult to think of her as the first lady of the lard. Yet she has been Mr. Kruger's constant helpmest through all the years of his public life, and their affection for each other seems to have grown with each succeeding year. She is Mr. Kruger's feesis, a name of prominence in South Africa. Kruger's first wife was an aunt of Miss du Plessis, and bore him one son, who died. Sixteen children were the fruit of this second marriage, and of those seven are living. The girls are comfortably married to burghers in and about Pretoria, and the boys take an active int our reptile. But for Rhodes Mr. Kruger says all would be peace and questness in the Transvaal. So long as this
man is in South Africa there is no rest
for the Boers, and their secret service
in Johannesburg on the lookout for
Uitlander conspiracies.

From all outward appearances, Oom
Paul is intensely plous, and though the
English insist that it is all hypocrisy,
there is no proof that Kruser does not
live in strict accordance to his preaching. He was confirmed in 1842 by the
Rev. Daniel Lindlay, an American missionary, and from that day to this has
led a severely Christian life after the
precepts laid down by John Calvin. He

Int his surging mob is discontented,
Nearly every one gambles in stocks,
horse racing and when he
loses it is attributed to the floor govermment. Ninety-nine men out of 100
have come there to "take a fiyer." and
it is immaterial to them who is runling the government.

Not so with Mr. Rhodes and the English colonial office, however. There is
the stain of Majuba Hill and the Jameson raid to be wiped out and 3100,000,000
of Kruger's sons acts as his secretary,
and another is captain of an infantry
company. Mr. and Mrs. Kruger does
white and covered in front with morning. He was confirmed in 1842 by the
scionary, and from that day to this has
led a severely Christian life after the
precepts laid down by John Calvin. He

that by one blow of the bird's sound wing.

Then the two children got stout clubs and pitched into the wounded chicken stealer, which had released the chicken stealer, which had released the chicken scampering back to the baruyard without a second's delay, but lucking a great many of its feathers. The savage bird fought desperately, using its strong, sound wing, and leaping against its assailants in efforts to fasten its great tailons upon them, but several well delivered blows on the head with their clubs finants in efforts to fasten its great tailons and single stations upon them, but several well delivered blows on the head with their clubs finants in efforts to fasten its great tailons and single stations are placed and atmost breathless from their clubs finance in a playful mood.

The story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of the barryard without a second with the count of the story of the destruction of t

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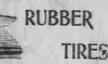
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